

Robins Review



PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY
Saturday, 16th August 1997, Kick-off 3pm

ALTRINCHAM
v
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY XI



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Welcome to Moss Lane

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This afternoon's game is scheduled to be our last before the big kick off next Saturday against Barrow here at Moss Lane. May we thank David Pleat for agreeing to send us a team for today's game, particularly as the Premiership season is in full flow. This game was originally scheduled for July 25th but, due to heavy traffic, the Owls were delayed and the game postponed at the last minute. Due to next week's internationals, today is a free one for the Premiership clubs, so here's hoping Moss Lane will witness some star names this afternoon.

KEVIN PRESSMAN

Goalkeeper. A former England youth international, Kevin came through the ranks at Hillsborough to make his Wednesday debut in 1987, and has since played over 200 games for the club. Kevin's excellent form has earned him an England B cap, and a full International call up. Kevin signed a new four year contract in July 1997.

IAN NOLAN

Defender. Ian joined the Owls from Tranmere Rovers for £1.5 million just two days before the start of the 1994-95 season. A native Merseysider, he began with non-league Marine before a move to Prenton Park in 1991. Pacy and comfortable in either of the full back positions, he impresses with his versatility and willingness to attack.

LEE BRISCOE

A product of the Owls' youth team, Pontefract born Lee was converted from wide left midfield to a more defensive position with great success. Speedy and

Wednesday enjoyed a very good 1996-97 campaign, reaching the FA Cup quarter final and just missing out on a place in the UEFA Cup via the Premiership. Big money signings made by David Pleat in the summer have been Frenchman Patrick Blondeau signed from Monaco for £1.8 million and Italian striker Paulo Di Canio who has come from Celtic in a multi-million pound exchange deal involving the flamboyant Regi Blinker. Confidence is naturally high for this season.

with the ability to produce a telling cross, he has since matured into a promising attack minded player.

DEJAN STEFANOVIĆ

Defender. Majestic and untappable defender signed from Red Star Belgrade as part of a double deal. Rarely flustered, and possessing aerial ability, a biting tackle and an educated left foot, he reads the game well and is able to play at full back or in the centre of defence.

PETER ATHERTON

Defender. Club captain, Peter was signed from Coventry City in the summer of 1994 and has proved to be a useful addition to Wednesday's back four. Able to operate in the centre of defence or at right back, the Wigan Athletic discovery and England Under 21 cap soon became a firm favourite with the Hillsborough fans.

DES WALKER

Defender. Quicksilver centre back Des joined the club for £2.75 million after a

spell with Italian side Sampdoria. He started with Nottingham Forest where he achieved England recognition. Des made his international debut against Denmark in 1989, and has now collected a total of 59 caps.

JON NEWSOME

Defender. Sheffield born Jon returned to Hillsborough for a fee of £1.6 million early in 1996. This is his second spell at the club, having initially come through the youth system to break into the first team in 1989-90, when aged just 19. He left for Elland Road in a double-deal with David Wetherall and was a fixture in the Leeds side for two seasons, earning a League Championship medal in the process. Norwich City paid £1 million for him in the summer of 1994 and Jon almost instantly took over the captain's armband for the Canaries.

PATRICK BLONDEAU

Defender. Patrick joined the Owls in July 1997 from French champions a AS Monaco. A full International, he spent nine seasons on the Côte d'Azur after joining them from Martigues. He is eager to establish himself in the FA Premiership and gain a place in the World Cup squad for France 98.

GRAHAM HYDE

Midfield. Signed professional forms for the Owls in July 1989 after ascending through the ranks, and deservedly forced his way into the first team reckoning two years later. One of the Premiership's most under-rated midfielders, Graham is a persistent, tenacious and consistent competitor who also displays an eye for goal.

WAYNE COLLINS

Midfield. Recruited from Dario Gradi's respected Academy at Gresty Road after catching the eye in a Coca-Cola Cup tie against the Owls. Wayne was introduced into the Railwaymen's first team four years ago, and the bargain £10,000 capture from non-league Winstford United proved an instant success, contributing 30 goals from midfield to finish as the club's top scorer in 1994-95.

BENITO CARBONE

Midfield. Springheeled, elusive winger prized away from Milanese giants Inter for a club record £3 million in October 1996. Started with Torino as a hopeful 17 year old, and got his education in Italian football in the normal fashion via spells at lower league clubs Reggiana, Casertana and Ascoli. After replacing Diego Maradona at Napoli and taking Dennis Bergkamp's shirt at the San Siro, he became the latest in a series of Italian imports to England.

SCOTT OAKES

Midfield/forward. Skilful and adaptable, this nippy winger can function equally well in midfield or attack. Signed from Luton Town, where he was a huge favourite with the Kenilworth Road faithful, mainly due to his match winning abilities. Scored several vital goals in the Hatters' run to the 1994 FA Cup semi-final, including a hat-trick against West Ham. Also briefly served home town club Leicester.

GUY WHITTINGHAM

Midfield/forward. Ex-army corporal Guy made an instant impact at Hillsborough, scoring four goals in his first two games after signing from Aston Villa in December 1994. He has maintained an astonishing strike rate since then. The Villains had paid Portsmouth £1.2 million for him after he scored 47 goals in 1992-93, but Guy's first team openings were limited at Villa Park and he soon went on loan to Wolves. Primarily a striker but can also excel in a slightly deeper role.

DAVID HIRST

Forward. Wednesday snapped up Cudworth-born David still a teenager in 1986, and he immediately ended himself to the Hillsborough fans, scoring on his home debut. Since then, David has cultivated a reputation as a powerful, explosive dangerman with a venomous shot, earning full England recognition in 1991, and netting over 100 goals for the Owls, including one in the 1993 FA Cup Final.

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Today's Squads

Tonight's teams will be selected from the following squads

ALTRINCHAM XI

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY XI

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Matthew DICKINS | Jon SCARGILL |
| George SHEPHERD | Jon WOODWARD |
| Christopher ADAMS | Junior AGOGO |
| Paul FRANCE | Steven HASLAM |
| Andrew BROWN | Simon WEAVER |
| Danny ADAMS | David BILLINGTON |
| Stephen CARROLL | Alan PRINGLE |
| Michael CARMODY | Sean HUTCHINSON |
| Niel HARDY | Krystof KOTYLO |
| Michael MOORE | Mark HARRISON |
| Ian HERRIGAN | Danny HINER |
| Richard HARRIS | Gavin SMITH |
| Daniel McGOONA | Jamie SIMPKINS |
| Andy BROWN | Matthew SIMPKINS |
| Chris WARING | Mark PLATTS |
| Graham LEISHMAN | Mark BATTY |
| Jamie TAYLOR | |
| Nathan EXCELL | |
| Peter GLICK | |
| Oliver GOODIER | |
| Stuart TERRY | |

Match Officials

REFEREE

Mr D Phillips

ASSISTANTS

Mr S Robinson

Mr A Taylor

(Match officials kindly provided by Altrincham FA)